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The New Germany. By GEORGE YOUNG. (London: Constable and Company Ltd. Pp. 325.)

Die Verfassung des Deutschen Reiches von 11 August, 1919. By DR. F. GIESE. (Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag. Pp. 456.)

Die Verfassung der Republik Deutschösterreich. By DR. ADOLF MERKL. (Vienna and Leipzig: Franz Deuticke. 1919. Pp. 184.)

Material for the systematic and critical examination of the new republican constitutions of central Europe is becoming available; and the three volumes here noted furnish important information about the new governments in Germany and German Austria.

Mr. Young's book is a journalistic account of the revolution and reconstruction in Germany up to the end of 1919. It includes chapters on the revolution, council government, the Treaty of Versailles, and the new constitution, with a translation of the latter document. It gives a record of events, based largely on personal observation, and written with a facile pen; but makes no attempt at a comprehensive analysis either of the revolutionary movement or of the new governmental system. The reaction of the different German parties toward the Peace Treaty are presented with a tone of sympathy, which reflects the opinion of those English liberals who consider the treaty both unjust and unsound. The new constitution is described as a very considerable advance in democratic development from the old régime, but as a compromise in comparison with the more radical views which were dominant in the early days of the revolution.

Dr. Giese, professor of public law at the University of Frankfort, has prepared a detailed annotated edition of the new German constitution. An introduction of sixty pages, on the foundation of the new government, presents a legal analysis of the steps in the transition from the former empire to the republic, and describes the stages in the process of preparing the new fundamental law. This is followed by the text of the constitution, with extensive notes and bibliographical references to each chapter and article. The volume is therefore a handbook of great value for the detailed analysis of the provisions of the new constitution, at the beginning of its operation.

Dr. Merkl, an official in the chancellery of German Austria, presents, in his monograph, a more systematic but less detailed analysis of the new republican government of that country. The first part deals with the general principles of the transition and the new system; while the

second deals more specifically with the different organs of government. A striking contrast with Germany is seen in the fact that in place of a single document, the sources of the new Austrian constitutional law (as of the former Austrian government) are to be found in a long series of measures. A list is given, with the titles of 31 statutes, 2 resolutions and one declaration, promulgated from October 30, 1918 to April 4, 1919. The most important are the provisional constitution of December 19, 1918, and two statutes of March 14, 1919.

It is of interest to note that both Dr. Giese and Dr. Merkl emphasize the doctrine of the complete legal discontinuity between the old and the new political systems. Attention may also be called to the declaration (in a statute of German Austria, March 12, 1919) that German Austria is a constituent part (*Bestandteil*) of the German Reich, in connection with the paragraph in the German constitution (article 61) providing for the representation of German Austria in the German Reichsrat, which the Peace Conference required to be canceled.

J. A. F.

France and Ourselves. Interpretative Studies: 1917-19. By HERBERT ADAMS GIBBONS. (New York: The Century Company. Pp. 286.)

For four years France bore the brunt of the German attack. During this time over a tenth of her soil, including some of her richest industrial provinces, were in German hands, the line of battle was never much over one hundred miles from her capital city, and twice was at its very gates. During these four years practically every able-bodied man between eighteen and fifty, except those imperatively required by necessary work at home, was in the army. All of France not occupied by the enemy was flooded with refugees from the invaded regions; the entire industrial life of the country was disorganized; nearly a million and a half of the men of the country were actually killed, and over half as many mutilated for life. There is scarcely a family in France which has not suffered not only heavy pecuniary loss, but bereavement of one or more of its members.

To all this must be added the terrific moral and mental strain through which France has passed. To the French a German conquest meant the end of all they held dear in their national life, and they realized to the full the enormous force of the German attack and the danger that